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Religious meetings barred in stimulus

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The final version of the \$790 billion economic stimulus package approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama maintained a provision that critics say will discriminate against religious faith on college campuses.

A section of the 10-year stimulus plan makes money available for the renovation of university and college facilities, but bars those buildings from being used for religious worship or instruction.

One of the effects would be to bar Bible studies and worship meetings by Christian and other religious student groups in facilities that have undergone repairs or modernization work underwritten by stimulus funds, religious liberty advocates say.

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) promised it would challenge the controversial provision in federal court if it becomes law.

"This is an unacceptable provision that clearly discriminates against religious organizations that have a legal right to use those facilities," ACLJ chief counsel Jay Sekulow said in a written statement. "This is not what 'economic stimulus' is about. We know that the American people don't want their tax dollars used for discriminatory measures."

U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, a South Carolina Republican, told CBN News that the clause opens the door to untold numbers of lawsuits. "Democrats are looking for every opportunity to purge faith and prayer from the public square. This will empower the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) with ambiguous laws that create liability for schools, universities, and student organizations. This is an attack on people of faith and I don't think Americans will stand for it."

DeMint attempted to have the exclusionary language removed from the bill after it arrived in the Senate, but was unsuccessful. Mississippi's two Republican senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, both voted in favor of removing the language.

"This is a very disappointing development," Sekulow said. "What's most troubling is the fact that a majority of the Senate supports a discriminatory provision that prohibits religious activity from taking place in college and university facilities nationwide that take federal stimulus funds."

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued a series of decisions over the last three decades that have supported the rights of religious students and organizations to use public college and secondary facilities if non-religious groups are given access to those same buildings. Many of those decisions were the results of lawsuits filed by ACLJ in defense of students' rights to equal access to school facilities for religious purposes, such as Bible studies and Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings.

H.R. 1 (AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009)

U.S. SENATE, FINAL VOTE: 60-38



Thad Cochran

No



Roger Wicker

No

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FINAL VOTE: 246-183



Travis Childers
First Congressional District

Yes



Bennie Thompson
Second Congressional District

Yes



Gregg Harper
Third Congressional District

No



Gene Taylor
Fourth Congressional District

No

Obama has not commented on the specific provision in Section 803 that bars religious meetings in stimulus-funded facilities, but he said of the overall bill, "I want to thank the members of Congress who came together in common purpose to make it happen."

In the House, Mississippi First District Congressman Travis Childers, a Democrat and member of East Booneville Church, Booneville, voted in favor of the final stimulus bill as did Second District Congressman and fellow Democrat Bennie Thompson.

Third District Congressman Gregg Harper, a Republican and member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, and Fourth District Congressman Gene Taylor, a Democrat, voted against the final bill.

In the Senate, both Cochran, a member of Northminster Church, Jackson, and

Wicker, a member of First Church, Tupelo, voted against the final version of the stimulus bill.

At the request of The Baptist Record, Childers provided the following written statement on his vote:

"The language discussed in this clause is typical to any allocation of federal appropriation dollars. Churches and other religious institutions of any denomination do not normally receive federal assistance from the appropriations process, and it would be unfair if the federal government began to choose winners and losers within the religious community. That being said, I do applaud measures instituted in the past that allocated federal resources to certain faith based initiatives."

Thompson's office did not respond to repeated requests for comment.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
Jimmy McEalter, Amory
Billie Buckley, Fetal
James Bates, Gulfport
Archie Herrin, Columbia
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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A worldwide scam on the World Wide Web

Beloved in Christ, Calvary Greetings in the Name of our lord Jesus Christ, I have been briefed to contact you because of passion for humanity and sympathy for people with just causes. I am a new Christian convert, suffering from long time cancer.

From all indications my condition is really deteriorating and it is quite obvious that I won't live more than six months. It has defiled all forms of medical treatment, and right now I have only about a few months to live, according to medical experts. I have not particularly lived my life so well, as I never really cared for anything but my business. Though I am very rich, But now I regret all this as I now know that there is more to life than just wanting to have or make all the money in the world.

I want God to be merciful to me and accept my soul so, I have decided to give alms to charity organizations and those in Need, as I want this to be one of the last good deeds I do on earth. So far, Now that my health has deteriorated so badly, I cannot do this myself anymore. The last of my money which only my Attorney knows of is the huge cash deposit of Five Million United

States Dollars (\$5 000, 000.00) that I have with an Asset Management / Vaulting Company Abroad. I will want you to help me collect this deposit. I am willing to donate this 5 million U.S. dollars to you for the less privilege and for practical Christian service and concern.

And upon my instruction, my attorney, who presently is in Accra Ghana distributing relief materials to victims and an application for the Transfer of the money in your name. Lastly, I honestly pray that this money when it get to your hand will be used for the said purpose. So if you know that you will use this fund honestly for things that will glorify God's name and

purpose of God's work, then do urgently contact me back and the details will be given to you on how you will be able to receive the fund.

Anyone with a computer and an e-mail address has likely received at least one such plaintive message lately — if not a whole slew of them. At The Baptist Record, the count for just this year is several hundred such messages.

The names and reply addresses may be different, but the point is always the same: The writer is a rich but dying new Christian, always overseas, seeking to give away his fortune to someone who will use it properly to ensure his entrance into heaven. All that need be done is to contact the writer for instructions on how to transfer the money.

If the recipient does reply, he/she is usually told to withdraw a substantial sum of money from their own bank account and send it to the writer, so that the writer's money can be freed up. Then, according to the writer, all of the recipient's money plus the newfound fortune will be sent back to the recipient.

It all sounds too good to be true, and it is. These are Internet scams of the highest order.

"The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a 'propensity for larceny' by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons," reports the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), referring to a particular scam that originates in the African nation of Nigeria.

"Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often described in great detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are spirited out of

Nigeria. In actuality, the millions of dollars do not exist and the victim eventually ends up with nothing but loss," the FBI states.

"Once the victim stops sending money, the perpetrators have been known to use the personal information and checks that they received to impersonate the victim, draining bank accounts and credit card balances until the victim's assets are taken in their entirety. While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually," the FBI warns.

There are many variations on this Internet scam, some involving the expressed desire to plant new churches, donate large sums to a seminary, or provide Bibles to people groups who have none. It's hard to believe folks fall for such a pitch but, according to the FBI, it happens often.

It's particularly egregious when Southern Baptists fall prey to such artifice, because we already have the best system in the Protestant world to fund such mission endeavors. We don't need to respond to scams foisted on us in the Name of the Lord to accomplish our duty under the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Southern Baptists have the Cooperative Program, the missions offerings, and many other ways to support the spreading of the Gospel that have been proven effective and cost-efficient. If there are any doubts about whether a program is worthy of our involvement — spiritually as well as financially — we must be willing to do the research and ask the hard questions to be sure the cause is legitimate.

Don't waste your money. Don't waste the Lord's money. Don't respond to these scams. Do the right thing.

GUEST OPINION:



Get rid of the clutter!

By David Francis
Nashville

Many of our church classrooms could hold more people, if we just cleared them of the clutter that has accumulated throughout the months and years.

You know how you get used to the junk in your home or garage over time, but you notice the same junk when you're in someone else's house? That's the way it is at church, too. A good Sunday School experience begins with a welcoming environment.

Here are a few places to begin the spring cleaning:

• **Preschool toys and equipment.** Almost all preschool rooms have old (perhaps even unsafe) toys and equipment that can be disposed of. Maybe it's a plastic slide, an extra baby bed, or too many chairs for the workers.

Take a critical look around and eliminate as much of the equipment as you can. Parents will feel better about leaving their preschooler in an uncluttered room, and you'll create more space for those preschoolers.

• **Stockpiled art supplies in children's rooms.** There are some supplies that should be in every children's room: markers, glue, scissors, etc.

But far too many rooms have far too many supplies. Some churches have discovered that they can remove an entire cabinet from every room just by establishing a central resource room. (See the next point.)

• **Establish a resource room.** Secure a room that is too small for a class, but large enough to line two or three walls with shelves. Label plastic containers with the names of popular art items and arrange them alphabetically on the shelves. Enlist a volunteer to keep the room organized and neat, and "deputize" that person to round up supplies from the classrooms.

Also, encourage teachers to return supplies to the resource room after each session. (The

absence of a place to stockpile supplies in the classrooms is an added incentive.)

• **Get rid of old stuffed furniture in the youth area.** Why do old sofas, recliners, and half-broken ping-pong tables always tend to end up in the youth room? Youth rooms should not look like garage sale sites. Consider hauling it all off or having a garage sale.

• **Evaluate the use of tables in adult classrooms.** I realize this may be tough to hear, but tables in adult classrooms almost always limit the number of people the room will accommodate. Some classes put chairs around the perimeter of the room for late arrivers or high-attendance days, but a

visitor who gets no place at the table will not likely return.

For many classes, the first step to signaling an intent to grow may be the removal of the tables. Sure, it could be less convenient, but you'll be amazed how many more people the room will hold.

• **Old posters and stuff.** While you're at it, why not go ahead and take down old posters and clean old bulletins and literature out of desks and drawers? You may discover the only real function of the desk has been as a disorganized file cabinet. Since you're already in de-cluttering mode, why not freshen up the bulletin boards and straighten the shelves?

You will be amazed what a little uncluttering will do to make your Bible study experience more pleasant for the regular attendees, and more inviting for guests.

Not having many guests? Maybe the first step is to "get ready for company" and see what God can do.

Francis is director of Sunday School at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

The Love Dare continuing to have impact

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Paula and John Thomas had been married 24 years when they separated. She wanted forgiveness and peace for both of them. He wanted a divorce.

"Our marriage was in shambles and my husband believed that even God couldn't put our marriage back together," Paula said. "Yet, after a six-month separation, the Lord put a halt to our divorce proceedings."

That was five years ago. Today, the Thomases help couples in crisis realize God's plan for their marriage. "When we were going through the hard times, we realized we simply didn't know each other," Paula said. "So many other couples are the same way."

After much prayer and searching the Scripture, God restored the Thomas' marriage.

"Not only did God restore our marriage, He made it stronger and more precious than ever before," she said.

In 2005 the couple renewed their vows. In 2007 they began telling their story, and in 2008 Paula said God blessed her marriage with The Love Dare. As featured in the movie Fireproof, The Love Dare is a 40-day Scripture-based journey that helps couples learn truly to love one another.

It is published by B&H Publishing Group, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"When struggling couples come to us for help, I always point them to Scripture and now I also give them a copy of

The Love Dare," Paula said. Couples embarking on The Love Dare read a short devotion-al and complete a complementing challenge, or dare, based on that day's

Hendersonville, Tenn., now spend more time talking than watching television and said they have learned to forgive the past.

"If couples read the lessons and complete the dares with genuine, sincere hearts, God will turn their marriage around," she said. "Couples have to be intentional about the 40-day challenge and let God work in their lives. They have to stay on their knees, and halfway through the book they won't be thinking about divorce anymore."

The book began as a plot element in Fireproof, which was released in theaters in September 2008 and is now available on DVD. Kirk Cameron played a firefighter whose marriage was headed for divorce. Cameron's character received The Love Dare book from his on-screen dad, and the book played a significant role in saving his marriage.

"In the movie pre-screenings, the audience left the theater asking, 'Where can I get that book?'" said Andrea Dennis, trade publishing representative for B&H Publishing Group. B&H Publishing Group joined forces with brothers Stephen and Alex Kendrick, writers of the movie, to produce The Love Dare resource.

The Love Dare has topped The New York Times best-seller list in the advice paperback category. Now with nearly two million copies in print, The Love Dare is also available in a Spanish edition. Additionally, Lifeway Church Resources released a Love Dare Bible Study for small groups.

"This book is a tool God is using to improve marriages around the nation," said Dennis, who also coordinates www.ShareTheLoveDare.com, an online forum for more than 1,000 subscribers who anonymously share how God is working in their lives as they use the book.



Scripture. (The first chapter's dare: "Resolve to demonstrate patience and to say nothing negative to your spouse at all.")

"When we got The Love Dare, we began with day one and we didn't skip a day," she said. "Through the book we have learned to respect each other, pray together and listen to one another."

"One big lesson I've learned is how to greet John when I first see him in the afternoon," Paula said. "When we greet our spouse with love it makes a huge difference."

The Thomases, who attend Long Hollow Church in

"We have almost daily received testimonies from those using The Love Dare about how God is changing their marriages," said Dennis, as she read an anonymous post from a man who is using the book to help restore his marriage after an affair. "It teaches couples how to love and how to communicate with each other."

Each day of the 40-day journey, subscribers post their thoughts and comments about that day's dare and communicate with other couples about what God is doing in their own situation.

"We're finding that people are pouring out their hearts on ShareTheLoveDare.com — and oftentimes their pain," said John Thompson, B&H senior vice president of marketing. "Those who are active on the site and are almost finished with the 40-day challenge will encourage those who are really hurting. We read all the time posts that encourage participants to run the race and not give up on their marriages."

Thompson described The Love Dare as a marriage movement, and said the message of the film and the book represent Christ's love for the church. "It's also a picture of God's love for us," he said. "The book is for anyone who wants to improve their marriage. It's even for people who aren't married yet and want to build a great foundation. It's exciting to hear that marriages are being saved and people are coming to Christ."

For the Thomases, The Love Dare didn't stop at day 40. "We are continuing the challenges of The Love Dare and we realize as we grow closer to God, we grow closer to each other."

An audio download of The Love Dare will be available in late February.

For more information about The Love Dare, visit LoveDareBook.com. For more information about Fireproof, visit FireproofTheMovie.com. The Love Dare is available at LifeWay Christian Stores.

Looking back

10 years ago

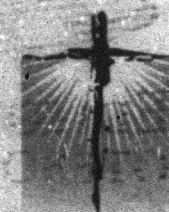
Racism remains a serious problem within the Southern Baptist Convention and across the United States, according to research of the SBC Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

20 years ago

Bill McCreary is the new director of missions for Benton and Tippah Associations. He moved from the pastorate of Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael, where he had served since 1982. He attended Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

50 years ago

Missions offerings of Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools reached a record total of \$508,813 in 1958, according to Sibley C. Burnett, superintendent of VBS promotion at the Baptist Sunday School Board.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

VOL. 133

No. 7



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Tax guide available

DALLAS (BP) — Ministers can receive additional help in preparing their federal income tax returns from GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual Ministers Tax Guide for 2008 Returns details recent changes to tax laws and their effect on ministers. GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said the free tax guide includes sample tax returns with step-by-step instructions for active and retired ministers, as well as a special pull-out section regarding the federal reporting requirements for churches. Richard Hammar, a noted certified public accountant, attorney, and widely published author on legal and tax issues for ministers, once again authored the guide's overview of recent changes in tax laws. The guide is edited by GuideStone's legal and compliance staff to address the tax issues that affect the greatest number of Southern Baptist pastors. The tax guide can be obtained in PDF format from the GuideStone website, www.GuideStone.org. Printed copies or a CD version can also be obtained by calling GuideStone customer service at (888) 98-GUIDE between 7 a.m.-6 p.m. CST Monday through Friday.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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HUCNPX IZP: ZKZYYP

Clue: T=B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eight: Twenty-eight

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COLLEGE NEWS

1. Mississippi College is hosting a conference on dyslexia Mar. 25 - 26 at the B.C. Rogers Student Center on the Clinton campus. Registration fee, \$65; registration deadline Mar. 20. The conference begins at 8 a.m. on the 25th. For more information, call Mitti Bilbo at (601) 925-7766.

2. McClain native and nursing major April Breland was crowned Miss William Carey Breland University 2009 and will compete at the Miss Mississippi Pageant to be held in July.



Witnessing Through Media

Awards Competition

Deadline for Entries:

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 6, 2009, 4:45 pm

STRUGGLING WITH STRUGGLING SAINTS

As you read the title of this article, some of you may have a face that comes to the forefront of your mind. It may be someone at work, at home, or possibly someone in your social circle. It could well be that some of you envision a whole room full of folks or maybe even a stadium filled with images of people you have found who are difficult to deal with. No doubt, we have all run into people who seem to be wired up in such a way that life is not peaceful unless it is chaotic. It seems as though they are compelled to be contentious with every issue in life. From time to time, every one of us finds ourselves in life situations that involve some difficult people. How do you deal with them? What are you supposed to do? As a Christian, what is the best thing to do?

I remember years ago, I received a call in the middle of the night from a family who had rushed a family member to the hospital, and he died in the emergency room. When they called me about his death and said that they were going to be at the hospital for a while, I told them that I would be right there. Arriving at the emergency room in the early morning hours, I went in and found a security guard standing at the inner doors. I asked him if I could go back to see the family. He said, "No one is being allowed in the emergency room." I explained to him that the family had called me because their loved one had died and they wanted me to meet them here. He said, "Well, you cannot go back there because the medical personnel are in the room with the family attending to the man who has died." I said, "I know it is the middle of the night and I may not be thinking clearly, but the man is dead. What can I possibly do that will interfere with the medical personnel that would harm him or be disruptive to the family and especially since they called me to come?" He said, "Well, you cannot go back there!"

I did not want to make a scene, and he was twice as big as I was. I reached in my pocket and took out a business card that identified me as a pastor and handed it to him and said, "Would you mind checking with them to see if I can talk with one of the family members or someone back there?" He said, "No, I cannot go back there and interfere either." I smiled at the gentleman and asked if there were other security guards in the hospital. He told me, "Yes, there are a number of them." I said, "Well you might better call some of them to come and help you because I am going back there to be with that family." He said, "You cannot do that!" I just stood there and said, "Well, I sure need to go back there and let them know that I am here." He just shook his head. I was not going to run over him, bypass him, or break the door down, but as I stepped to one side and



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

looked down the hallway that led into the emergency area I saw a doctor that I knew coming our way. He actually was coming to check to see if I had arrived. He opened the door, motioned for me, and said, "Come on back here; the family is waiting on you." I smiled at the security guard, thanked him for his help, and went on back to the family.

What in the world are we supposed to do when we run into difficult people that we have to deal with? *One thing we need to keep in mind is that we do not know what is taking place in their lives.* I thought about the security officer at the hospital. I am confident that he had been instructed, informed, and even trained to keep people away when there was a crisis in process. Besides that, while I woke up and came to the hospital in the dark hours of the night, he had been there working all night. It may have even been a second job. Who knows what was taking place in his family life or the burdens and the challenges, the struggles, and even the sicknesses that he may have been going through. It is a good piece of information to hold on to and realize that we do not know all of the facts about anyone. Regardless of how well you may know someone and how informed you may be about their situation, there are parts of their lives and pieces of their struggles that you do not know.

A second thing to keep in mind is that they do not know you either. You may not know about them, but they do not know who you are, how smart you are, how important you are, how needed you are, or how anything you are. A lot of folks may not know who we are, they may not understand what we are going through, and they may not even care. In reality, that may be immaterial because at best any and every one of us is a simple human being, a sinner saved by grace. Scores of times I have been in situations where I have reminded myself with a smile on my face about the old celebrity story that is told again and again. It is about the well-known person/entertainer who visits a nursing home and goes up to one of the residents and asks, "Do you know who I am?" After peering at the person for a few moments, the response comes, "No, I don't, but if you will go up there to the desk maybe they can tell you."

A third thing that you need to keep in mind when you are dealing with difficult people or even delightful people is

the fact that God may have brought you to that place to display the sweet spirit of Jesus and to bless somebody's life. It seems as though somebody else's cranky attitude or ill spirit can so quickly contaminate our own. It is difficult for us to remember that wherever we are, whoever we are with, whatever the situation, and however demanding others may be, God may be wanting to do something significant in that moment through us to care and to love rather than to slash and mash.

You may say, "Well, that's not easy to do." I know, but if you want to see it done in the most magnificent way do not turn to me or any other human being around you, but look to God. Think about all of the difficult people with whom He has to deal — disobedient people, resistant people, unbelieving and emotionally warped people, and people that may at times look like you and more frequently than that look like me.

May God help us to desire to have His spirit laced with His strength, so that when we deal with difficult people we will respond in the same way that He responds.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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MS POSITIONS

SOUTH LOUISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH of Winston County Miss., is accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Resumes will be accepted until March 12, 2009 and mail to Steve Weeks, P.O. Box 302, Noxapater, MS 39346.

WALTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, WEBSTER county, is seeking a pastor. House will be supplied in Waltham. Please send resume to attn: search committee, Waltham Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Waltham, MS 39771.

HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH, Holcomb, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to youth search committee, c/o HBC, 12135 Hwy. 8 West, Grenada, MS 38901.

THE WAY COMMUNITY CHURCH, A new church start and member of the Winston Baptist Association, is in search of an energetic, bi-vocational pastor to lead contemporary style worship. Please send resumes to Vicki Chambliss, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339.

LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Pope, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music and a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to search committee, 5033 Pope-Water Valley Rd., Pope, MS 38658.

SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Wesson, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191, attn: music search committee.

LAKEWOOD, EDGE OF DRIVE WAY, 1 plot, lot 16, section 30, \$1,000, firm. Call 601-992-3664.

FOR SALE: 1998 FORD 15 PASSENGER church van, 104,000 miles, \$7900.00. Call Larry 662-862-6669.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

CONDO IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm, 2 bath, full kitchen, walking distance to parkway, \$70.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0101/0141. Email pdw4760@att.net.

LAWRENCE COUNTY BAPTIST Association is accepting resumes for Director of Missions now through March 15th. Please send resume, doctrinal commitments, references and an audio/video sermon to: Lawrence County Association of Baptists, c/o Bro. Chad Moore, chairman of search committee, 2427 Highway 43 South, Leoma, TN 38468. Or email info to lawcobaptist@loretotel.net.

SALE: 2009 JAYCO 32' CAMPER, w 2 bedrooms, 2 slides, sleeps 10. Used only once. Ideal for family camping. Located in Hattiesburg area, 601-924-5382 or sdj987@aol.com.

WANT TO BUY: ROUND FOLDING tables and metal chairs in good condition, call 601-754-8834.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

WANTED: HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for used partitions to put in our fellowship hall to create additional Sunday School space. Willing to pay. Please call 662-571-1753 or

601-720-4000. STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

SERREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Serren, owners.

FOR BEST RATES ON: MEDICARE supplements, Major Medical & Group Health Insurance plans as well as home and auto. Call Turner Insurance, 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

CLARK AUCTIONS: PERSONAL estates, business liquidations and real estate. We sell in 30 days. Nick Clark, R. E. Broker Auctioneer 601-317-2536 www.nickclarkauctions.com. #1145

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPEAKER: searching for a speaker for your next women's ministry event? Corrie Clay, founder of Filling the Gap Ministries, is ready to bring a fresh perspective from God's word to your ladies. To schedule Corrie, call 205-240-8872, or visit www.fillingthegapministries.com.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kirkglas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3.9 state to state, 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-800-329-2088 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtdt.

MINISTER OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: FBC, Jonesboro, Arkansas, is searching for a minister of music ministries. Five years experience in Adult Music Ministry preferred, with seminary or Master's degree in Music. Please send resumes to Minister of Music Ministries Search Committee, david.colananni@mail.astate.edu.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Spring 2009

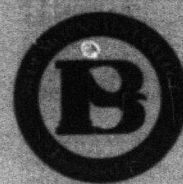
"Laborers Together With God"

Christian – ⁽¹⁾ one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ; ⁽²⁾ of or relating to Christianity; ⁽³⁾ based on or conforming with Christianity.

Education – ⁽¹⁾ the action or process of educating or being educated; ⁽²⁾ to develop mentally or morally by instruction; ⁽³⁾ giving evidence of training;

Higher Learning – education, learning, or scholarship on the collegiate or university level.

Mississippi is home to three Mississippi Baptist institutions of higher learning that unashamedly strive to provide education within the context of the teachings of Jesus Christ. While each of these institutions has a unique heritage and has made Kingdom-sized contributions throughout their individual histories, these schools don't rest on past laurels but consider their historical accomplishments as a springboard for future opportunities and blessings.



Sitting on a hilltop in Northeast Mississippi, Blue Mountain College has a stellar history of educating young women and men in a secure, faith-centered campus community that challenges the hearts and minds of talented students to reach their potential. Established in 1873 as a liberal arts college for women, Blue Mountain College opened its doors to men preparing for church-related vocations in 1956. In October 2005, the Board of Trustees of the College unanimously approved expanding the school's focus as a fully co-educational institution by making all programs offered by the College available to male students.

In rankings presented by U.S. News & World Report Blue Mountain College is recognized as one of the best comprehensive colleges in the South offering the bachelor's degree. In addition to their academic excellence, Blue Mountain College has been named as a "Champions of Character" institution for the seventh consecutive year by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The NAIA selects schools for this prestigious honor by evaluating student-athletes, coaches, faculty, administration, and supporters in five areas: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Servant Leadership, and Sportsmanship.



Mississippi College
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Mississippi College is the state's largest private university and the oldest institution of higher learning in the state. Mississippi College also is recognized as the second oldest Baptist college in America. With an enrollment approaching 5,000, Mississippi College provides students the opportunity to pursue academic excellence in over eighty areas of study. In addition to their undergraduate program, Mississippi College offers twelve graduate degree programs, a doctorate of jurisprudence, and a doctorate of education leadership. Furthermore, MC promotes international programs in Africa, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Greece.

In a recent U.S. News & World Report survey of America's Best Colleges, Mississippi College was listed as a "Best Value" in the South. In addition, a Forbes.com listing of "America's Best Colleges" ranked Mississippi College in the top 25 percent of undergraduate institutions surveyed. The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention ranks Mississippi College as a top 25 school from which missionaries graduate and are under appointment.



Named after the cobbler who is recognized as the father of the modern mission movement, William Carey University offers academic instruction on their Hattiesburg and Harrison County campuses in Mississippi and in New Orleans, LA. Since 1906, when William Carey was established as South Mississippi College (renamed Mississippi Woman's College - 1913, then William Carey College - 1954 to reflect Co-edu-

cational status), the university's students and faculty have been ambassadors for Christ both in the local arena and around the globe.

Recently, WCU was placed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

William Carey also has been named as one of America's "Best College Buys" by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. In addition to these noteworthy awards, William Carey anticipates the opening of Phase I of their new Tradition campus in Harrison County in Fall 2009 while also making plans to open the new College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fall 2010.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is honored to come alongside of these fine institutions as a "co-laborer with God" through our scholarship ministry. The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation awards approximately 300 scholarships annually. The recipients for the 2008-2009 academic session are presented as follows:

Daniel Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients

Blue Mountain College

Bass, Timothy	Tiptonsville
Bishop, Michael	Ackerman
Blair, Brian	Blue Mountain
Brady, Marisa	Ripley
Cagle, Jonathan	Tishomingo
Chism, Samantha	New Albany
Cisco, Charles	Slayden
Clark, Amie	Olive Branch
Coleman, Jamie	Greenwood
Cook, Audrey	Olive Branch
Culver, Chelsey	Ripley
Deaton, Stephen	Mooreville
Dixon, Amber	New Albany
Faulkner, JoAnna	Tupelo
Geno, Dawn	Iuka
Harbor, Andrew	Corinth
Haynes, Robert	Corinth
Hill, Brad	Ripley
Howell, Ryan	Booneville
Hughes, Nicholas	Ripley
Johnson, Joseph	Myrtle
Jones, David	Batesville
King, Matthew	Water Valley
Leathers, Emily	Pickens
Ledbetter, Andrew	Saltillo
Lentz, Rachel	Arkabutla
Lewis, Brandon	Auburn
Magers, Thomas	Nettleton
Manning, Ray	Myrtle
Matthews, Barry	Albany
McClure, Christopher	Ackerman
Miller, Emily	Pontotoc
Miller, James	Pontotoc
Newell, Emily	Learns
Page, Tina	Blue Mountain
Perkins, Anthony	Walnut
Phillips, Kimberley	Blue Mountain
Reeder, Ashley	Thaxton
Reeder, Matthew	Thaxton
Reps, Kayla	Ripley
Richardson, Blake	Etta
Roberson, Michal	Arkabutla
Roberts, John	Tupelo
Roby, Elizabeth	Tupelo
Russell, Christian	Pontotoc
Russell, Marley	Ecu
Scott, Heather	Etta
Scott, Lauren	Tupelo
Shelton, Amanda	Ripley
Singleton, David	Okolona
Stenger, Rebecca	Poplarville
Stout, Katherine	Olive Branch
Strachan, Logan	Walnut
Teel, Christina	Mt. Pleasant
Thompson, Daniel	Starkville
Trest, Rachel	Hernando
Tyler, Anna	Olive Branch
Walker, Adam	Edinburg
Wenzel, Taryn	Pascagoula
White, Rebecca	New Albany

William Carey University

Bennett, Mary	Columbia
Brown, Donald	Wesson
Dove, Nathan	Whitehead
Dyess, Mason	Carson
Ellzey, Lauren	Hattiesburg
Frierson, Meagan	Picayune
Gandy, Jill	Waynesboro
Gillie, Samuel	Janice
Gray, Andrew	Columbia
Hallford, Alysha	Petal
Hart, Brett	Brookhaven
Hyatt, Charlie	Richie
Ivey, Dan	Vicksburg
Jenkins, Amanda	Prentiss
Layton, Courtney	Runnelstown
Layton, Heather	Collins
Layton, Marilyn	Braxton
Maxwell, Frederick	Brooklyn
McCabe, Jerrod	McComb
McNis, Dennis	Hattiesburg
McMillen, Ashley	Hatley
Mithcell, Jeanne	Poplarville
Mithcell, Kara	Poplarville

Odom, Trent	Waynesboro
Perry, Michael	Pelahatchie
Reid, Joshua	Petal
Stanback, Philip	Bethel
Stovall, Lindsey	Brandon
Sullivan, Jessica	Magee
Thexton, Alisa	Sumrall
Webb, Ashley	Petal
Webb, Kimberley	Holly Springs
West, Amanda	Laurel
Williamson, Cari	Hattiesburg

Mississippi College

Allen, Bethany	Clarksdale
Babb, Laurie	Madison
Barnhardt, Kristin	Clinton
Beasley, Anna	Crystal Springs
Bennett, Jaime	Indianola
Bennett, Justin	Picayune
Bird, Anna	Jackson
Boutwell, Emily	Laurel
Brashier, Kelley	Mooreville
Brown, Anna	Brandon
Brunt, Halley	Crystal Springs
Cade, Kelsey	Macon
Calcote, Larica	Natchez
Caldwell, Stephanie	Petal
Campbell, Katherine	Clinton
Card, Victoria	Oxford
Caves, Katie	Bogue Chitto
Clark, Audrie	Moss Point
Clark, Jeffrey	Hattiesburg
Collins, Sheryl	Jackson
Conner, Mallory	Oxford
Cooper, Jennifer	Raymond
Coots, Amber	Clinton
Cowan, Maurice	Benton
Crum, April	Vance
Davidson, Cameron	Columbus
Davis, James	Madison
Dillard, Roger	Saltillo
Dodd, Whitney	Picayune
Drake, Jessica	Petal
Dykes, Meghan	Centerville
Ellis, Bethany	Courtland
Fortenberry, Brynn	Oxford
Gladney, Melanie	Madison
Golding, Elizabeth	Winona
Graves, Justin	Laurel
Graves, Laura	Leland
Gregory, Samuel	Hernando
Grice, Andrew	Southaven
Grice, Rebecca	Southaven
Griffin, Dann	Meadville
Griffin, Hannah	Brandon
Hancock, Kyle	Macon
Hardin, Brittini	Madison
Hays, Anna	Tutwiler
Hays, Joel	Tutwiler
Head, Benjamin	Wesson
Hicks, Andrew	Clinton
Hicks, Corey	Byram
Holloway, Brandon	Clinton
Howard, Margaret	Smithdale
Howard, Matthew	Smithdale
Hudson, Rachel	Oxford
Hunt, Lindsey	Petal
Hurt, Laura	Decatur
Jackson, Reagan	Philadelphia
Jeffcoat, Raymond	Florence
Johnson, Audra	Holcomb
Keen, Laney	Louisville
King, Christopher	Petal
King, Joshua	Brandon
Kintner, Bryant	Brookhaven
Kirk, Matthew	Indianola
Langworthy, Jordan	Clinton
Lofland, Myles	Madison
Luckey, Lauren	Clinton
May, Melissa	Brandon
May, Rebecca	Madison
McGee, Lauren	Crystal Springs
Murphy, Brian	Columbus
Murphy, Laura	Columbus
Myers, Travis	Pascagoula
Palmer, Chelsea	Morton
Pannell, William	Pontotoc
Parella, Ashley	Grenada
Penton, Christopher	Gautier

Pickle, Brett	Brandon
Prather, Brittany	Raymond
Prather, James	Raymond
Prather, Vicki	Raymond
Queen, Lana	Raymond
Rayner, April	Brandon
Rector, Matthew	Brandon
Sanders, Zachary	Star
Savage, Amanda	Jackson
Sheehan, Joshua	Little Rock
Sheffield, Bryan	Picayune
Simpson, Amy	Kosciusko
Singletary, Beverley	Crystal Springs
Smithart, Elizabeth	Brandon
Stanley, Joseph	Braxton
Stevens, Hamilton	Benton
Sturniolo, Amanda	Greenwood
Sutherland, Taylor	Richland
Thompson, Kaleb	Hattiesburg
Tillman, Emily	Philadelphia
Tisdale, Donald	Saucier
Valentine, Kristen	Richland
Wallace, Jana	Bogue Chitto
Warren, Bruce	Clinton
West, Marshall	Brandon
White, Jeremy	Vicksburg
White, Sarah	Madison
Williamson, Justin	Picayune
Wilson, Daniel	Madison
Wilson, Kyle	Mantachie
Windham, Hannah	Florence
Winstead, Emily	Madison
Woods, Haley	Coila
Woodward, Ashton	Madison

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Bryant, Johnathan	Woodland
Caston, Jerry	Utica
Davis, Brad	Long Beach
Feathers, Charles	Slayden
Fede, David	Laurel
Fede, Sarah	Laurel
Graham, Remy	Ridgeland
Hammett, Shane	Starkville
Hill, Samuel "Peyton"	Ripley
Holland, Candice	Indianola
Johnson, Emily	Booneville
Kendrick, Robert	Laurel
Loyd, Josh	Nesbit
Loyd, Melinda	Senatobia
Mangum, Steven	Moselle
Parrish, Layne	Greenville
Turner, Lydia	Holcomb
Vandiver, Dallas	Booneville

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Neal, Matthew	Quitman
Roberts, Stephen	Guntown
Woodyear, Joe	Laurel

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Blackwell, Ben	Hattiesburg
DeLaughter, Matthew	Brookhaven
Donahou, Andy	Starkville
Fairley, Robbie	Gulfport
Fortenberry, Jon	Oxford
Harmon, Laterra	Macon
Hodges, John	Winona
Kitchens, Eric	Petal
Lang, Earnest	Cleveland
Lewis, Angela	Tupelo
Martin, Matthew	Yazoo City
Aaron Lamar Reynolds	Richland
Ruiz, Jose	Wesson
Williamson, Amber	Booneville
Williamson, Christopher	Hattiesburg

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Bailey, Jonathan	Long Beach
Baker, Michael	Hickory Flat
Barnes, Patrick	Oakvale
Barnett, James	Biloxi
Best, Jennifer	Bogalusa
Beville, Kristopher	Southaven
Bird, Joseph	Brandon
Bonner, Wes	Waynesboro
Braddy, Joshua	Brandon
Bradford, James	Waynesboro
Bryant, Larry	New Albany
Burks, Charles	Laurel
Cardinal, Mickel	Greenville
Clark, Brian	Hattiesburg
Clay, Aaron	Olive Branch
Coley, Carrie	Pelahatchie
Cummings, Ricky	Hattiesburg
Davis, John	Batesville
Dedmon, Brian	Grenada
Dennis, Abby	Meridian
Doss, Michael	Gulfport
Every, Marcus	Hernando
Freeman, Talmadge	Meridian
Freney, Timothy	Jackson
Garland, Richard	Clinton
Givens, Bonnie	Waynesboro
Glasz, Jacob	Gore Springs
Hathorn, Jason	Ellisville
Herndon, Daniel	Poplarville
Hinson, Kendric "Kendra"	Natchez
Jefcoat, Jennifer	Saltillo
Johnson, Kelby	Laurel
Johnson, Richard	Crystal Springs
Joy, Mason	Cleveland
King, James	Poplarville
Lawler, Kimberly	Columbus
Manning, Edward	Petal
Martin, Jerry	Philadelphia
McDaniel, Michael	Picayune
McGraw, Elizabeth	Woodville
McMillen, James	New Albany
Mims, Timothy	Picayune
Pace, Marshall	Picayune
Parker, John	Goodman
Polk, Zachary	Prentiss
Pouns, Donald	Crystal Springs
Rainer, George	Meridian
Rikard, Robert	Duck Hill
Robey, Ken	Taylorville
Rost, Devin	Amory
Routzahn, Angela	Laurel
Rushing, Dori	Tylertown
Rushing, Johnnie	Magnolia
Sandberg, Richard	Long Beach
South, Paul	Biloxi
Sparks, Stephen	Benton
Stewart, James	Hattiesburg
Stuart, Austin "Brook"	Brandon
Taylor, Ashley	Starkville
Tedder, John	Grenada
Tew, Kenneth	Hattiesburg
Tew, Kristin	Hattiesburg
Thompson, Ashton	Brandon
Vice, Alisha	Grand Bay
Wade, Steven	Morton
Waldrop, Doyle (Trey)	Brookhaven
Walker, Darla Hollis	Brookhaven
Welch, Jason	Hamilton
Westmoreland, Jason	Shivers
Whitcomb, Diane	Jackson
Wilbanks, Jessica	Coldwater
Williamson, Britt	Hattiesburg
Wright, Kenneth	Batesville
Zinc, Louis	Bay St. Louis

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Hayes, Jimmy	Prentiss
Johnson, Joshua	Topeka

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Norman, Shan	Liberty
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Thank You for Giving to the Lord

The Foundation's award process includes the opportunity for scholarship recipients to say "Thank You" to the donor who made the funds available. A sampling of these letters serves as a reminder of the quality of young people who are attending our Baptist institutions.

- One student named Kelsey wrote, "Since I received this scholarship, I am greatly encouraged academically and personally to pursue my dreams. Thank you ...for allowing me to follow my dreams and attend a great Christian college. May God bless you."
- Another student named Lauren wrote, "My goal, after receiving my degree, is to teach in a local high school. I feel that it is very important for young people to have teachers in our schools that live out what it truly means to be Christian."
- Bethany wrote, "Your gift is another way for the Lord to accomplish His work," and Willie wrote, "While attending the university, my main focus will be deepening my personal walk with Christ and becoming a beacon to others."
- Samuel wrote, "Thank you for the scholarship provided by the MBF. Currently, I am pursuing a degree in Pre-med/Biology...with the goal of becoming a doctor...to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be a role model for young Christians who want to seek Him full-heartedly. In closing, I'd like to share my favorite verse that has inspired me to accomplish my dreams, "I can do all things through Christ because he strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

From personal experience, I can attest to the wonderful blessings associated with attending an institution of higher learning that is Christ-centered. In fact, nearly twenty members of my family have attended or graduated from Baptist colleges/universities located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. I have a deep appreciation for Christian institutions of higher learning and the countless number of faithful stewards who help make education possible through endowed scholarships.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

It's that time of year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR THE
2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE AVAILABLE
ON OUR WEBSITE.

VISIT

www.ms baptist foundation.org
TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry provides needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our website, www.ms baptist foundation.org. Completed applications for the 2009-2010 academic year must be received in the MBF office by April 30, 2009.



Guest Perspective

Scholarships and other Charitable Contributions

By LEONARD VAN SLYKE

As Christians, we are called upon to love our neighbors. Among the ways love is expressed is through the sharing of our financial resources. Sometimes we give direct assistance. At other times, we give through various ministries. While all types of giving to those in need is a valid expression of our Christian mission, that is an entirely different matter from what is recognized as a "charitable gift" by the United States government.

The United States Congress has the responsibility of determining the standards of what is a recognized charitable gift for tax purposes. The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") is charged with enforcement of the tax laws, including the authority to promulgate rules and regulations which provide the details of how the various laws will be administered.

In order for a charitable gift to be deductible on one's tax return, the gift must be to a "qualified charity" as specified in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Qualified charitable organizations include a corporation, trust, community chest, fund or foundation that is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, scientific or literary purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, or to foster and conduct national or international amateur sports competition. It also must be organized or created in the U.S. or its possessions, or under their laws. Finally, and this is important, none of the organization's earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. The organizations listed above are ones also qualify for tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3), meaning their income is exempt from income taxation to the extent it is related to their business purpose.

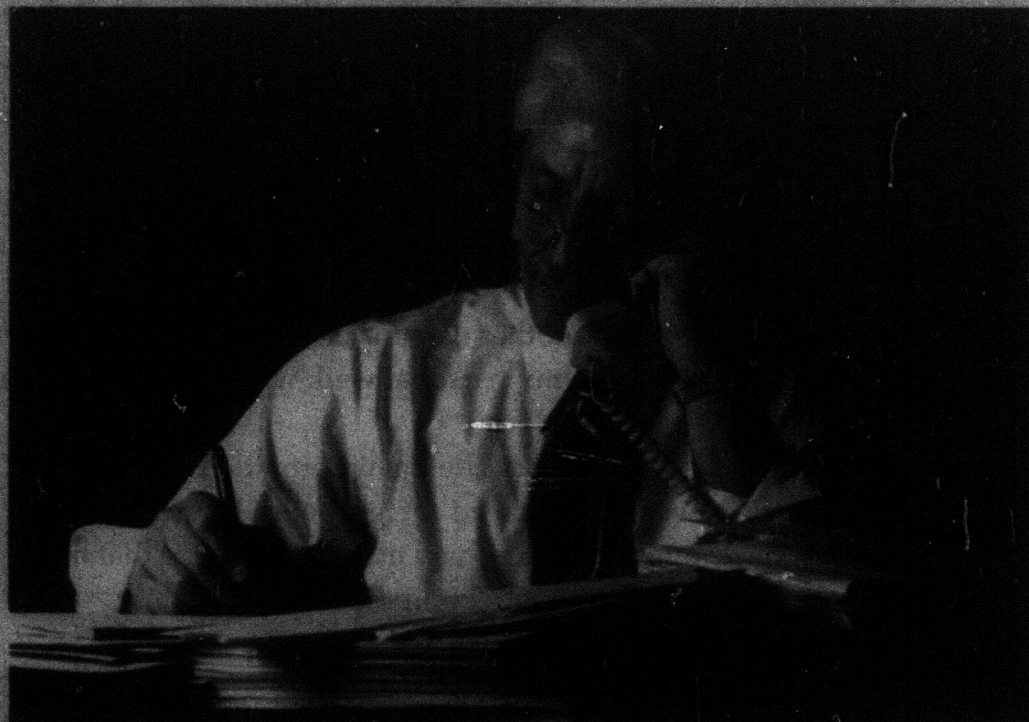
From the above definition, you can begin to see just how technical the requirements are for a qualified charity. That leaves a lot of room for errors. It may help to give a couple of examples. First, since qualified charitable organizations do not include individuals, one can readily discern that a gift to one's next door neighbor to repair the neighbor's run-down home would not qualify for a deduction. Frequently, we hear of individual needs and respond. That is an appropri-

ate Christian response, but we need to understand that it will not qualify for a deduction.

Sometimes people are under a false impression that responding to a specific individual's need by running the gift through a church or other qualified charitable organization makes the gift deductible. Actually, it doesn't. You have simply made a gift to an individual and used the charitable organization as a conduit. What's more, a charitable organization that allows itself to be used in such a way could actually be endangering its own income tax exemption. As you'll recall from the definition of a qualified charity, none of such an organization's earnings may inure to a private individual. Qualified charities run into this type of issue frequently.

Another common example is in the area of scholarships. An organization such as the Mississippi Baptist Foundation could set up a scholarship fund and award scholarships to individuals under certain specified criteria such as need, studying for a church-related vocation and the like. The organization's board would then choose the scholarship recipients based on the objective criteria. A contribution to such a qualified charity under those conditions would be deductible. A contribution to the organization which was specified to only be used for the education of the donor's relative, on the other hand, would not be deductible.

Once it is determined that a contribution is being made to a qualified charity and thus deductible, then the donor needs to be aware that there are certain limits to the amount of deductions. This is not usually a problem, but it can be for large gifts. In general, an individual who itemizes can deduct charitable contributions up to 50%, 30% or 20% of his adjusted gross income, depending on the



type of property contributed and the type of donee. Amounts that exceed the ceilings can be carried forward for five years. Another caution is that an itemized deduction for charitable contributions is subject to reduction if adjusted gross income of the donor exceeds specified amounts. If you feel there may be an issue such as this related to your gift, you need to check with your tax advisor before you make the gift.

Of course, no charitable contribution is allowed to a taxpayer unless he can substantiate or prove his right to it. Since August 17, 2006, a taxpayer can't deduct any contribution of a cash, check or other monetary gift unless he maintains as a record of the contribution a bank record or a written communication from the donee organization showing its name, plus the date and amount of the contribution. Generally, churches and other charitable organizations routinely send such information to their donees at the end of the year.

All of the above is certainly not to discourage giving. And, we're not trying to make you a tax expert. We do, however, want you to be aware of some of the major pitfalls so that you won't be disappointed if you expected your charitable gift to be deductible for tax purposes.

Leonard Van Slyke is an attorney with Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis, P.A. in Jackson.

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa: Revival, Mar. 8-11; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., luncheon services 11:45 a.m. and evenings, 7 p.m.; Jimmy Milliki, speaker; Wayne Baggett, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Corinth Church, Purvis: Revival, Mar. 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Scotty McDowell, speaker; Steve & Becky Carver, music.

Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, Mar. 1; worship, 11 a.m., followed by noon lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Jerry Barlow and Joe Boatwright, speakers; for more information, call (601) 876-5873.

Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall: 150th anniversary and homecoming, Mar. 1, 10:30 a.m.; Peyton Myers and Billy Thomas, speakers; Bob & Jim Harris, music; for information, call (601) 847-2174.

Courtland Church, Courtland: Revival, Mar. 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m.; evening services, 7 p.m.; youth fellowship Tues., 5:30 p.m.; Fred Pearrow, speaker; Don Brummett, music.

Savannah and Golden Isles of Georgia tour
March 9-15 (reg. by Feb 20)
Washington DC Cherry Blossom tour
March 30-April 6 (reg by Feb 28)
Mackinac Island & Circle Lake Michigan tour
May 1-9 (reg by March 16)

PURPOSE DRIVEN TOURS

A MISSISSIPPI OWNED CHRISTIAN COMPANY
CALL 601-371-8733 FOR BROCHURE AND INFO
Wayne K Barber, Director

Other 2009 tours

June 8-20 Rocky Mountains
July 1-Aug 1 .. Alaska & W Canada with Calgary Stampede
Aug 17-28 Grand Canyon, Arizona
Oct 7-17 Fall in historical New England
Nov 16-21 Smoky Mountain Christmas
Dec 4-10 Texas Christmas

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AND ARE ALL INCLUSIVE**

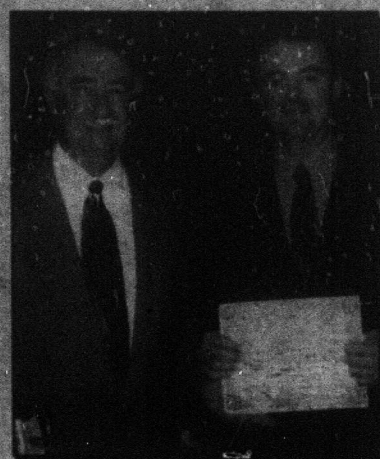
(ALL meals, tips, insurance, lodging, transportation)

MSAudio LLC

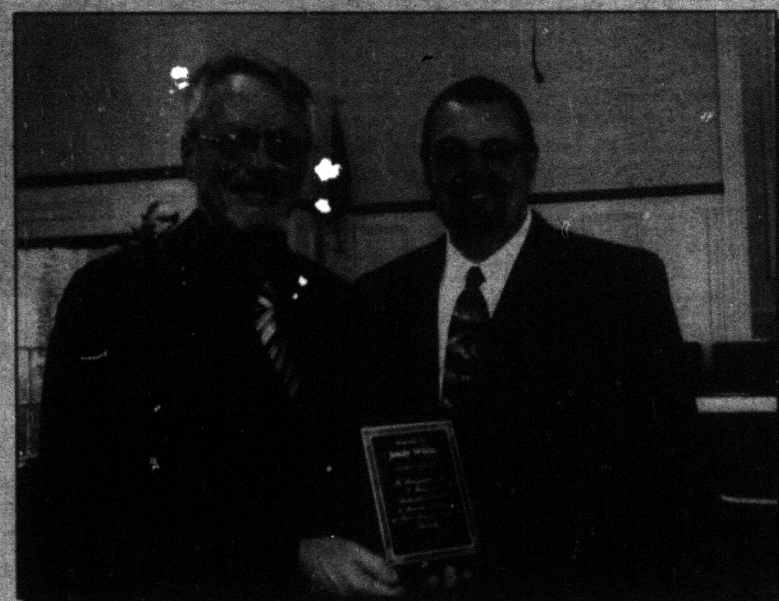
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. McGreger and Wolfe



2. White and Langley

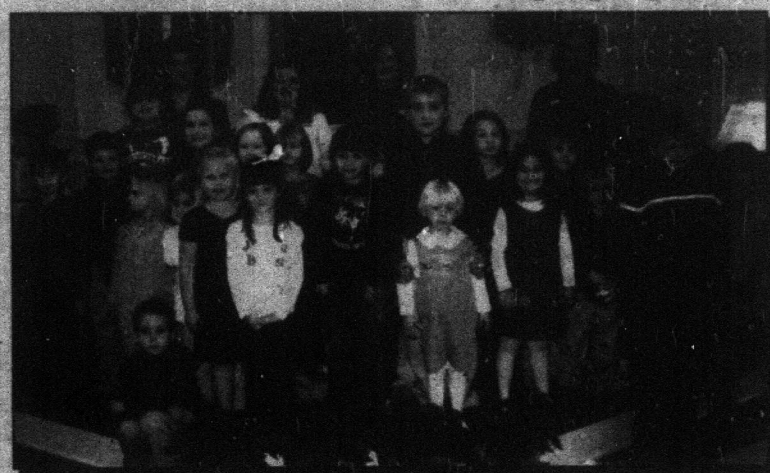
1. **Tocowa Church, Courtland,** ordained Chris Wolfe as youth minister Dec. 7. Shown are pastor Terrell McGreger and Wolfe.

2. **First Church, Byhalia,** honored Joedy White with a fellowship for 10 years of service as Minister of Music. Shown are White and pastor Anthony P. Langley.

3. **Cedar Grove Church, Columbia,** had a total of 22 children and five adults participate in their Tree of Light Christmas program on Dec. 7.

4. **First Church, Mize,** ordained new deacons Johnny McKissack, Jay Arrington, and Lynnwood

Sullivan Jan. 18. Shown are Bobby Bryant, McKissack, Arrington, and Sullivan.



3. Cedar Grove Church



4. Deacon ordination, First Church, Mize

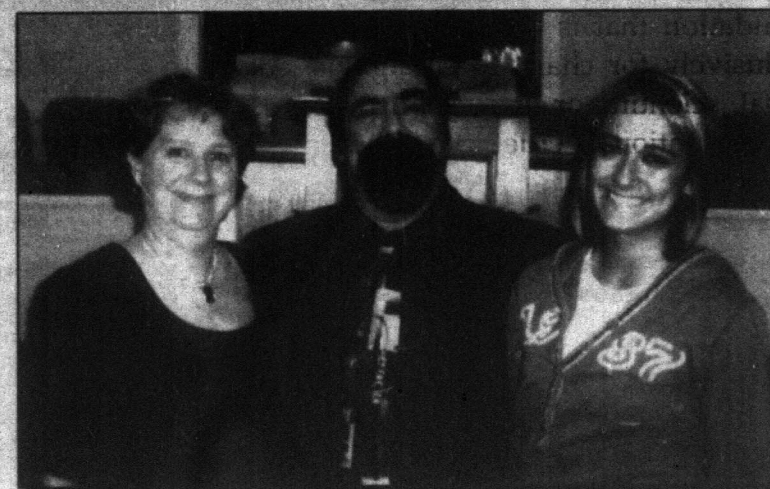
STAFF CHANGES

1. **Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia,** has called Glen Crane as pastor. He is shown with his wife Cammie and daughter Maria.

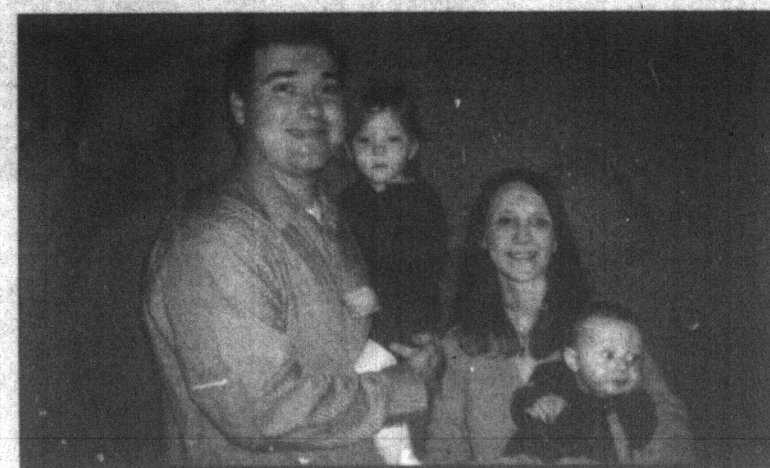
2. **Wade Church, N. Jackson County,** has called Rich Lancaster as pastor. He received his Master of Divinity from Southeastern Seminary, his Masters Degree in Public Administration from Shaw A.F.B., and his Bachelors of Science in International Affairs from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He and his wife Lisa have four children: Katie, Luke, Hannah, and Emmie Sue.

3. James Sadler recently retired from **Liberty Church, Amite County,** and is available for supply. He can be reached at (601) 657-4650 or 730-0352.

4. **Magnolia Church, Laurel,** has called P.J. Weeks as pastor. Shown with Weeks is his wife Annie, daughter Robin Anne, and son William.



1. The Cranes



4. The Weeks

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

By Bill

When the Mississippi Recorder-Lord would come from and I run a preparatory to you, especially Editor me with Life to study and prepare have more.

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By Joy

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pray for Others

John 17:9-19

By Bill Patterson

While growing up in south Mississippi, I read the Baptist Record each week. After the Lord called me into ministry, I would clip pertinent illustrations from the Sunday school lessons and file them. Occasionally I still run across one of those when preparing a sermon. I never dreamed I'd have the opportunity to write the lessons. Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, and especially thank you, Associate Editor Tony Martin, for letting me write the Bible Studies for Life this past quarter. These studies on missions, evangelism, and prayer ministered to me as I prepared them, and I hope they have ministered to you, too.

This lesson is on praying for others. We often tell people, "I'll be praying for you." But do we?

One method that has helped me through the years has been the use of prayer cards. On Mondays I pray for extended family, on Tuesdays for lost people, on Wednesdays for missionaries and church mission activities, on Thursday for friends, on Friday for people with special needs, on Saturday for government officials and on Sunday for pastors, staff members, and Sunday school teachers.

You may have a better way to intercede for others. But prayer cards have helped me stay organized for the last thirty years as I prayed for hundreds of people and needs in my spheres of responsibility. I simply keep an index card for each day, write Scripture verses and Christian quotes on one side, and add to

the people or needs on the other side. I punch a hole in the cards and keep them together with a ring. What a joy each morning to come before the Lord on behalf of others.

Pray for Unhindered Fellowship (John 17:9-12)

In John 17 we can listen in to Jesus as He prays and hear Him express what is on His heart. And what is on His heart? You are. That's right, hours before His death, Jesus prayed for His disciples and for those who would become His disciples — for you. When you pray for others you are following the practice of Jesus.

Jesus prayed for two things in these verses. He prayed for protection for His disciples. The word protection (v. 11) indicated careful attentiveness. The Son asked the Father to carefully attend to keeping you.

The other thing for which

He prayed was unity (v. 11). You will never pray amiss when you pray for God to protect a Christian or when you pray for oneness of purpose, faith, and love. There are some things for which we pray but are not certain they are what God wants. When we pray for God to protect and to unify, we can know we are praying in the will of God.

Pray for Joy in the Midst of Opposition (John 17:13-16)

Another thing for which Jesus prayed was for His disciples to have His joy (v. 13). We usually think of Jesus as a Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3). He took our sorrows upon Himself, but He also had deep joy (John 15:11). Jesus had an inner joy this world could not take away. He told us we would be in a world that hates us (v. 14) and yet we could have His joy.

That joy is connected with the Word of God (v. 14) and to answered prayer (John 16:24). Neglecting prayer and the Bible brings worldliness and loss of joy. The Word will keep

us from sin, or sin will keep us from the Word. You are always in the will of God when you pray for believers to get into the Word and for their joy to increase as they do.

Pray for Devotion to Jesus' Mission (John 17:17-19)

The word "sanctify" in verses 17 and 19 means "to be set apart." The word often carries the idea of holiness and purity. As Jesus was set apart to go into the world, so He has set apart His believers (v. 18) to go into the world. As in verses 13-16, this sanctification is connected with the Word of God (v. 17; John 15:3). When you grow in the Lord, you will love sin less and love the Lord, His people, and His Word more.

We are to carry out the work of Jesus. You will never pray wrongly when you pray for others to discover and get about their purpose. Our purpose in life is to carry out His purpose in life.

Patterson is pastor of First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

You Can Keep at It

II Thessalonians 3:1-18

By Joyce C. Rogers

This is the last lesson from II Thessalonians. The study theme has been "Good Words for Growing Christians." This lesson gives Paul's request for prayer and his instructions to help the new believers learn to serve God faithfully every day.

Pray for Missionaries

We all need prayer. Paul, the great apostle and missionary, was no exception. He had two requests. First, he asked "that the Lord's message spread rapidly and be honored" (II Thessalonians 3:1 HCSB). The second request was "that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men" (3:2). Notice which request came first. Paul's first concern was that the Lord's message spread rapidly. His request for protection was less important to him. He recognized, however, his need for protection so that he

might continue his preaching and traveling.

Missionaries need prayer today. They are listed in Open Windows and Missions Mosaic according to birthdays. Our IMB missionaries and North American missionaries know that many will be praying for them, especially on their birthdays. Many have testified what a blessing this is. If you go to www.imb.org or www.namb.net, you can access missionaries' names and prayer needs.

In our church, members are listed by birthdays in the weekly newsletter, so that all members can be prayed for by name in a year.

Persist in Faithfulness

The Evil One will try to prevent us from serving the Lord. But God will strengthen us and help us avoid temptation. We may think, oh, this

is a small thing. It won't matter if I do it or don't do it this time. But it is the faithfulness in small matters that become big. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is "May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance" (3:5).

Sometimes our concept of serving the Lord is too small. Praying, showing love, and giving are important ways to serve. Service does not have to be something others see. Preaching, music and other leadership gifts are certainly good and necessary, but they may not be our gifts. Whatever we do to serve the Lord, let it be done faithfully.

Pursue Responsible Behavior

Paul's words in verses six through twelve are stern. He uses the words, "We command you." He commands the Thessalonian believers to keep away from brothers who do not walk responsibly. Notice he is speaking to believers, not unbelievers.

When Paul was physically with the Thessalonian believers, he set an example by working as a tent maker. He did not expect anyone to feed him. He did not want to be a burden to anyone.

This admonition does not mean that church staff are not to be paid. Paul did accept aid at times and affirmed the right to support. In this particular case, he felt it necessary to be an example. The following statement has become legendary. "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat."

Some Christians today don't seem to realize they have responsibilities. They may think avoiding certain sins and attending church occasionally is all they need to do.

Some of the Thessalonian believers expected the Day of the Lord and the end of the world to be very soon. Therefore, they need not keep working. Why earn money that they would not be able to use?

The idle ones were interfering with the work of others. They had time on their hands

and became busybodies, rather than busy.

Persevere in Doing Good

The brothers (and sisters) are urged not to "grow weary in doing good" (3:13). "And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don't associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. Yet don't treat him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother (3:14, 15). We don't lose our salvation when we fail to live a Christian lifestyle, but we lose fellowship with God and fellow believers."

Chapter three and the book of II Thessalonians end with a typical benediction, but written in Paul's handwriting. Evidently, Paul had dictated his letters to a scribe. Someone had forged a letter to the Thessalonians, writing false information. Because of this, he wanted them to see his own handwriting as proof that the letter really came from him.

May we serve the Lord with perseverance. May we be found faithful.

Rogers is a member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

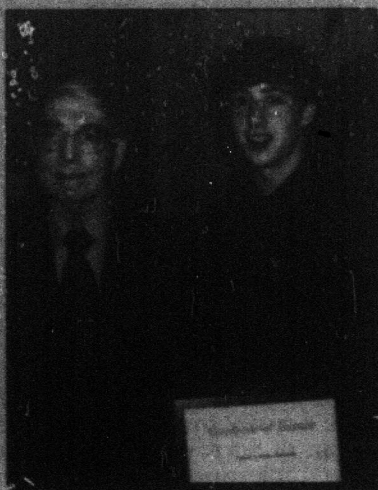
Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. The Smiths



2. Ogborn licensing



3. Magers ordination, First Church, Nettleton



4. First Church Raleigh



5. Martin and Brown



1. Crestview Church, Petal, celebrated the first anniversary of their pastor, Stephen Smith, with cake and ice cream Feb. 1. Shown are Smith and his wife, Sherry.

2. East Moss Point Church, Jackson County Association, licensed Ryan Ogborn to the gospel ministry Feb. 1. Ogborn serves the church as youth and children's minister. Shown are Norman Wells and Ogborn.

3. First Church, Nettleton, ordained Thomas Magers II to the gospel ministry Feb. 1. Shown are Marc Howard, Keith Dowden, Amanda Magers, Magers, and Ron Harrison.

4. The wMu of First Church, Raleigh, held a baby shower for the Pregnancy Crises Service of Central Mississippi located in Forest. Shelia Ware, right, from the Pregnancy Crises Service attended their meeting in February to give more information about the PCS ministry and thank the church for the gifts.

5. Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogue Chitto, exceeded their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$2000 by collecting \$3301. Shown are pastor Mike Martin and Corinne Brown, wMu director.

6. The Team Kids of Goodwater Church, Lauderdale Association, presented a Christmas program with 21 out of 35 children participating. Shown are the participants.

7. Academy Church, Tippah County, will have a sanctuary dedication Mar. 1. Worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, 12:30 p.m.; dedication service, 2 p.m. For information, call (662) 685-4200.

8. First Church, Morton, hosted Associational Acteens Day Dec. 6, with 62 in attendance and six churches represented. East Central Community College's BSU Praise Team led in worship, and Creed, the drama team from North Morton Church, led in worship through song and skit.

9. West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, is hosting a gospel sing Feb. 28, 7 p.m., featuring The Professors, Southern Psalm, and David Freeman. A love offering will be received.

10. Highland Church, Natchez, will host an Easter morning sunrise service on the Vidalia Riverfront at the amphitheater at 7 a.m., Apr. 12.

11. Friendship Church, McComb, collected items for the Pike County Association March 2009 medical mission trip to Matamoros, Mexico.



6. Goodwater Church

Visit us online - www.mbcab.org

Baptist 400

CELEBRATING CHRIST SINCE 1609

The Baptist 400 is a collection of 400 stories, each representing a different Baptist church or denomination. The stories are arranged in a grid, with each story featuring a small image and a short paragraph of text. The stories are written by various authors, including pastors, church members, and scholars. The collection is a testament to the rich history and diverse traditions of the Baptist faith.

Available in print and digital formats. Audio download available online.

For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/baptist400

BAYLOR

In the Baptist 400 mark, the symbol of the cross is illustrated in four parts - noting 400 years. Three smaller diamond shapes appear to be growing out of the larger representing the growth of Baptists through time. Since 1609, Baptists have celebrated the love of God through Jesus Christ His son.